

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 01958 131045Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 H-01 NIC-01 IO-10 SS-15

SIL-01 LAB-04 /062 W

----- 011222

R 130924Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0591  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 1958

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, RP, ORIT, SOCI  
SUBJECT: NATIONAL REFERENDUM: MORE ON COMELEC MEETING WITH  
RELIGIOUS GROUPS

REF: MANILA 1914

1. TIMES JOURNAL FEBRUARY 13 CARRIED LEAD HEADLINE  
"BISHOPS BUCK POLL BOYCOTT -- BUT URGE SAFEGUARDS FOR  
NON-VOTERS", TO INTRODUCE ONE-SIDED ACCOUNT OF FEB. 12  
COMELEC MEETING WITH VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS (SEE REF-  
TEL). ARTILCE PLAYED UP PRO-GOVERNMENT ASPECTS OF  
MEETING, CONVENIENTLY FAILING MENTION COMELEC REJECTION  
POINTS 3 AND 4 OF CBCP STATEMENT ON REFERENDUM. LARGE  
PORTION PRESS STORY DEVOTED TO REPORTING BASICALLY PRO-  
REFERENDUM AND PRO-REGIME STATEMENT BY FR. CONSTANTE  
FLORESCA, GENERAL MANAGER OF PHILIPPINE PRIESTS, INC.  
(ORGANIZATION OF DIOCESAN FILIPINO PRIESTS). FLORESCA,  
ACCORDING ACCOUNT (LATER VERIFIED BY AMERICAN JESUIT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 01958 131045Z

SOURCE), "ASSAILED CERTAIN RELIGIOUS ORDERS FOR ALLOWING

FOREIGNERS IN THEIR GROUP TO MEDdle IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF COUNTRY." TIMES JOURNAL WENT ON STATE THIS WAS OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN MINDANAO AND SULU WHO HAD SIGNED JANUARY 9 REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO (SEE MANILA 766).

2. COMMENT: APPEARS REGIME ATTEMPTING PROMOTE SPLIT WHICH HAS DEVELOPED WITHIN CHURCH HIERARCHY AS CONCERN COMING REFERENDUM. AMERICAN JESUITS COMMENTED TO LABATT THEY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT BELOW-THE-BELT TACTIC OF TRYING DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN FILIPINO AND FOREIGN PRIESTS. WHILE IT TRUE MINDANAO/SULU REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO SIGNED BY SEVERAL AMERICAN MARYKNOLL SOCIAL ACTION PRIESTS, MAJORITY SIGNATORIES FILIPINOS, INCLUDING BISHOPS CLAVER AND VARELA. IN MEANTIME, AIR WILL NOT BE CLEARED BY STATEMENT CURRENTLY CIRCULATING AMONG RELIGIOUS ORDERS TO BE SIGNED BY NON-FILIPINO MISSIONARIES. STATEMENT PLEDGES "FULL SUPPORT OF OUR BISHOPS AND RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS IN THEIR DEFENSE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS." RIGHT TO ABSTAIN IN COMING REFERENDUM CONSIDERED BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. EMBASSY INFORMED NUMBER OF AMERICAN JESUITS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED DOCUMENT.

SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, REFERENDUMS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MANILA01958  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750052-0835  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750247/aaaabple.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 MANILA 1914  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIONAL REFERENDUM: MORE ON COMELEC MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS GROUPS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SOCI, RP, (COMELEC)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006